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Compared with those of recent years it is a "late spring" in the Arboretum after a winter remarkable in the large amount of snow which has fallen and which has covered the ground continuously from the middle of December to the middle of March. The deep cover of snow has successfully protected low growing plants; it has protected, too, field mice which have injured some valuable shrubs by stripping the bark from their stems and branches. The cold was not unusually severe. Covered by the deep snow the ground was free or nearly so of frost during the winter, and in March there was promise of an exceptionally early spring, but on the morning of March 29th the thermometer registered two degrees below zero and the prospect of an early spring was ended. Fortunately this extreme cold at the end of March had not been preceded by days of high temperature, and comparatively little damage to plants in the Arboretum was caused by it. Rhododendrons with persistent leaves have suffered here more than any other plants by the low temperature at the end of March. There are dead branches on many plants of the Catawbiense Hybrids which have grown uninjured here for years; and some of the large plants of the native *Rhododendron maximum* have suffered even more than the Catawbiense Hybrids. The hybrid *Rhododendron myrtifolium* (*R. hirsutum* x *minus*) which has been growing in the Arboretum since 1885 and has never before lost a leaf or a flower-bud, is now badly injured. It is interesting that a related hybrid, *R. arbutifolium*, the *R. Wilsonii* of many gardens (*R. ferrugineum* x *minus*) is uninjured, as is *R. minus* itself. Uninjured, too, are *R. catawbiense*, the Caucasian *R. Smirnozii*, the Japanese *R. Metternichii*, and *R. Wateri*, the hybrid of one of his

Catawbiense hybrids with *R. Metternichii* raised several years ago by the late Anthony Waterer. The varieties and hybrids, too, of *Rhododendron caucasicum* are uninjured in leaf and bud. Of other broad-leaved evergreens *Pieris* or *Andromeda floribunda* from the southern Appalachian mountain region is as usual uninjured and covered with flower-buds soon to open. This is certainly the handsomest and one of the hardiest broad-leaved evergreen plants which has yet been thoroughly tested in the northeastern states. The more common *Leucothoe Catesbyi* of the same region often loses all its leaves during severe winters when the plants are fully exposed to the sun, and last spring the native Inkberry (*Ilex glabra*) lost its leaves which now are as bright as they were in October. Even such a hardy broad-leaved evergreen as *Evonymus radicans vegeta* loses many of its leaves in severe winters which, however, never appear to injure the leaf-buds. This fact is important for this *Evonymus* is the only substitute for the Ivy which can be successfully grown in eastern Massachusetts. The leaves of the Ivy which has been growing here on the Administration Building for a number of years has suffered more this winter than it ever has before but probably will recover. This is one of the plants obtained from Riga on the Baltic which is probably as cold or colder than any other region where the Ivy grows naturally. It was hoped that plants which had grown in such a cold country would prove hardy here, but it now appears that there is little hope that an Ivy can be found which will prove really hardy east of Cape Cod. The Arboretum collection of conifers is in unusually good condition this year and there are no losses to report. The leaves of the southern Short-leaved Pine (*Pinus echinata*) are as usual badly burned, and although this valuable timber tree grows naturally on Staten and Long Island it is now evident that although it can exist in the Arboretum it will never make a fine tree here. The Chinese Pines (*Pinus sinensis* and its varieties) which lost nearly all their leaves a year ago are now in good condition; and the leaves of the Japanese Black Pine (*Pinus Thunbergii*) have been less injured by the winter than they have been for several years. It is still possible to say that the most beautiful conifer in the Arboretum is the Carolina Hemlock (*Tsuga caroliniana*).

Winter Flowering Witch Hazels. These plants have behaved in an unusual manner during the past winter. The species from southern Missouri and Oklahoma (*Hamamelis vernalis*) which usually blooms here at the end of December or early in January did not open its flowers until the middle of March. The flower-buds of this species, of the Chinese *H. mollis* and of *H. japonica* on the plants growing in low ground near the pond at the junction of the Meadow and the Valley Roads were killed. The plants of *Hamamelis japonica* have been growing in this position for the last twenty-five or thirty years and have never before failed to cover themselves in late January and in February with flowers. On high ground and in better drained soil *H. mollis* this year did not bloom until March 23, or at least two months after its normal time for flowering, and the flowers of the Japanese species were equally late. On the 21st of April the new red-flowered Japanese *H. incarnata* was still in full flower in the temperature of a hot July day. The flowers of this plant are small with dull red-brown

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